

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN JO 01723 040559Z

12

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 032330Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHC 6948

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 1723

EXDIS

PLEASE PASS S.E.C.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, CS

SUBJECT: SEC INQUIRY: VESCO STEAMSHIP LINE

REF: STATE 082203

1. AS RESULT OF DISCRETE INQUIRY INITIATED IN RESPONSE TO REFTTEL, EMBOFF WAS INFORMED BY LEADING STEAMSHIP AGENT IN SAN JOSE THAT HE HAD LEARNED FROM ANOTHER SHIPPING AGENT THAT PRESIDENT FIGUERES IS PLANNING TO LAUNCH A STEAMSHIP COMPANY WHICH WOULD CARRY REFRIGERATED CARGO, I.E. BANANAS AND BEEF FROM COSTA RICA TO THE U.S. AND EUROPE. FIGUERES' PLAN WILL REPORTEDLY RECEIVE FINANCIAL BACKING FROM ROBERT VESCO. THE SCHEME IS SAID TO INCLUDE GENERAL TORRIJOS OF PANAMA. GENERAL SOMOZA OF NICARAGUA HAS ALSO REPORTEDLY BEEN INVITED TO JOIN IN BUT HAS NOT YET MADE UP HIS MIND. FIGUERES IS SAID TO HAVE DISCUSSED IT ON RECENT VISITS TO PANAMA AND NICARAGUA WHILE PUSHING HIS IDEA OF PLACING AN EXPORT TAX ON BANANAS.

2. RE BUQUES COMPANIA CENTROAMERICANA, S.A., A CHECK OF THE CIVIL REGISTRY CAME UP NEGATIVE AND NO FURTHER INFORMATION THAN THAT REPORTED ABOVE HAS BEEN DEVELOPED. THE ORIGINAL SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION IS A COSTA RICAN WHOSE POLITICAL IN-
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CLINATIONS ARE ACTIVELY OPPOSED TO PRESIDENT FIGUERES AND IT

IS POSSIBLE, THEREFORE, THAT HIS DATA ARE UNRELIABLE, OR AT BEST,
EXAGGERATED. NEVERTHELESS, FIGUERES IS NOTED FOR PROMOTING
GRANDIOSE SCHEMES, MANY OF WHICH NEVER GET OFF THE GROUND AND
THIS COULD VERY WELL BE ANOTHER ONE.
LANE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CARGO SHIPS, SHIP CHARTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740107-0902
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740576/aaaacpwt.tel
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
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TAGS: EIND, CS, BOQUES COMPANIA CENTROAMERICANA S A, (VESCO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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